10-3-18

VALLEY LIFE: GOD THE MOTHER

THIS CLUB HAS SOME BAD RUMORS DESPITE A PEACEFUL MESSAGE.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

SPORTS: WATER POLO LOSS

THE MEN'S WATER POLO TEAM HAD THEIR FIRST DEFEAT OF THE SEASON.

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Program cuts Valley book costs

Grants save Valley students nearly $1 trillion dollars.

JESSICA LANGE
ONLINE EDITOR

Due to the constant increase in textbook costs, the Valley College Academic Senate passed the Open Educational Resources initiative in order to cut down on the expense of books, with a $1 million in student saving thus far.

The OER and Zero Textbook Cost grants offer Valley College students textbooks for their classes at reduced or zero costs. The OER requires a 30 percent reduction cost in at least 50 courses common to the California higher educational systems at Valley. The latest grant, ZTC, offers degrees and certificates with either low textbook costs or zero costs. Students may find a list of ZTC or low cost textbook classes by refining the class type icon within the schedule search.

"This is a massive movement that barely passed the senate in 2017, but it passed because students came to the meeting," said Josh Miller, Academic Senate president and chairman of the communications department.

Savings are available for students attending California community colleges and the California state university. One of the ways the programs work is through teachers offering students free and open etextbooks to download.

"College students throughout the state have these Cal Poly students to thank for this important measure."
- Jordan Cunningham

"I thought online textbooks were interesting because it still gives a lesson plan of where you can find everything," said nutrition major Brian Jimenez. "It was good to use because it was very interactive and similar to a mini slideshow."

In addition, some schools have made other inroads to reducing textbooks costs. Cal Poly students, alongside Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, submitted a bill that passed into law which requires publishers to tell students the differences between editions in an effort to lower textbook costs.

Because of the increase in textbooks, "71 percent of students ask their parents for money, 41 percent skip meals and 31 percent take fewer classes to afford their reading material," according to a new survey by Morning Consult for Cengage, an online textbook company.

The bill intends to lower the amount California college students spend on textbooks. Textbook publishers need to release a detailed description on their website how the newest edition differs from the previous edition. Students have the opportunity to determine if they need the new book or save

see Books p.2

Government cracks down on e-cigs

E-cigarettes have become popular among teens because of the various flavors they offer but soon these flavors will be off the market.

ENVATO | PRESSMASTER

VAPING- E-cigarettes have risen in popularity among teens due to their pleasant flavors, but they hide numerous health risks.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

The FDA recently threatened Juul and other e-cigarette distributors to stop producing flavored e-cigarettes targeted towards a younger audience or else their products will be taken off the market permanently.

Along with Juul, British American Tobacco's Vuse, Altria's MarkTen, Imperial Brands' Blu E-cigs and Japan Tobacco's Logic are also being required to submit plans within 60 days detailing how they will prevent teens from using their products. This historic crackdown on e-cigarette retailers is in hopes to control the epidemic of teen smoking.

"More than two million middle and high school students were current users of e-cigarettes in 2017," the FDA said, "and e-cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product by youth."

The National Institute of Drug Abuse surveyed teens on why they smoked e-cigarettes: "66.0 percent say just flavoring, 13.7 percent don't know, 13.2 percent say nicotine, 5.8 percent say marijuana and 1.3 percent say other." The FDA's demands to remove the flavoring from e-cigarettes may prove to be the strongest solution to reducing teen use.

"I used to only like the mint, but now I only smoke mango," said Valley College student Emily Brooke. "If they were to get rid of the flavors, I would not smoke them anymore."

Some teens argue that e-cigarettes are a healthier alternative to cigarettes. Advertisers claim that e-cigarettes are less harmful due to containing fewer toxins than cigarettes; however, they are not free of toxins and still deliver harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, particulates and metals.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine stated in a January 2018 report, "While e-cigarettes deliver lower levels of carcinogens than conventional cigarettes, they also expose users to high levels of ultrafine particles and other toxins that have been linked to increased cardiovascular and non-cancer lung disease risks– which account for more than half of all smoking-caused deaths."

The first substantial evidence of long-term health damage from e-cigarettes was reported in February by researchers from the University of San Francisco. The study concluded

see E-cigarettes p.2

CREATIVE COMMONS | NEON TOMMY

GOVERNOR- Jerry Brown signed AB 705 into law, easing the stress of passing placement exams.

Bill eliminates classes

Students will no longer be forced to take placement exams at community colleges thanks to a new Senate Assembly Bill 705.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

The stress California community college students face when taking their placement exams will soon be a thing of the past with the passage of Assembly Bill 705.

The legislature unanimously passed AB 705 and Gov. Jerry Brown signed it into law late last year. This bill requires colleges to maximize the probability that students will complete transfer level courses in math and English within one year of their initial attempt. This bill was written to clarify existing regulation and ensure that students are not placed into remedial courses that may delay or deter their educational progress.

"The reality is so many students come here and then don't get out," said Josh Miller, president of Valley College's Academic Senate. "Just by the very nature of forcing people into these transfer-level courses, you're going to have more students failing, but you also have more students completing. Just by default more of them are going to make it."

This assembly bill is beneficial to the students who place two to four levels below a transferable course. Typically, they would spend anywhere from one to three additional years at community college to complete their transfer requirements. Being placed directly into a transfer-level course increases the chance of completion as well as transfer.

According to data from Los Angeles Mission College, "Currently, 52 percent of students (those placing at three or more levels below transfer) have to re-take all high school Math." The default placement rules in English will impact 70 percent of community college students. There will be almost 24,000 additional students per academic year who are placed at transfer level.

Some professors are supportive of this bill. A common theory is that if you put the poorer performing students in with the better performing students, everybody will do better because they will be helping each other. Other instructors are worried about dumbing down their classes or feeling pressure to pass students just to get them to transfer; they fear being held accountable for students' failure.

"For too long, inaccurate high stakes placement tests put students behind and stopped them from ever crossing the graduation stage. With the signing of AB 705 into law, more students will be placed directly into college-level courses and be able to reach their goals," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

However, student success is reliant on the support they choose to engage in. Although placement tests are no longer required, there are "default placement rules" that include recommendations for concurrent support depending on students' high school performance, backgrounds and needs.

Per the July 2018 California Community Colleges Memorandum, all students will be placed directly in transfer-level English. Students whose high school GPAs were between 1.9 and 2.6 will be placed in transfer-level English, but additional academic and concurrent support is recommended. Anyone whose high school GPA was below 1.9 is strongly recommended to seek additional academic and concurrent support.

The implementation of this bill is in progress and placement tests will soon be a thing of the past. All California community colleges must be in compliance with AB 705 no later than fall of 2019.

ON CAMPUS

October 4

The Career/Transfer Center is offering a Fall 2018 Career Prep Boot Camp series to help students prepare for their carrer goals in the Student Services Annex from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

October 6

Monarch Football will be playing a host game against West Los Angeles College in Monarch Stadium at 6 p.m.

October 9

The Career/Transfer Center will be hosting a CSUN international admissions representative to meet one-on-one with international student who want to transfer to CSUN in the Student Services Annex from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

October 11

The Child Development Department is hosting a Career Fair with recruiters from LAUSD and Bright Horizons at 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystar.com

Socialist club comes to Valley

A new club on campus looks to bring an alternative message to the next generation of college-aged voters.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Disillusioned with both the Republican and Democratic parties, many students are looking to the Youth Democratic Socialists and socialism for answers.

The Youth Democratic Socialist Club, or YDSA, is in its first year at Valley College and has become a strong voice in the student senate. On paper it has over 70 members, about 15 of whom are active, according to interim club president Rich Ruff.

"We were one of the first clubs to charter this year and are considered founding members," said Ruff.

The Democratic Socialists of America avoid talking about socialism directly, opting instead to ease into the idea of socialism through the popular ideals espoused by Bernie Sanders, who the DSA supported during his presidential run in 2016. Renewed interest in socialism, spurred by Sanders' popularity, led to the DSA quickly expanding the YDSA to over 70 campuses across the country, according to their website. Valley played host to a new branch of the parent organization (the DSA) for San Fernando Valley on September 22 with support from Valley YDSA members. They describe their philosophy as "... that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few."

"I haven't felt this postive about young people's politics in decades."

- George Leddy

VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH
SOCIALIST- Members of the Valley YDSA and the Los Angeles chapter of the DSA gather in a committee.

Many socialist ideas are in line with what young voters are looking for; single payor health care, free college for all, social security and more. Members like Ruff are enthusiastic about their evolution into socialism, and some young Americans are beginning to agree.

The club has also had of support from the faculty with three staff members volunteering to sponsor the club and help spread the socialist message.

Adviser and adjunct Professor of Environmental Science George Leddy remembers when being a socialist was a dirty word and is glad to see a resurgence in what he sees as "one of the best guiding ideals for modern politics."

"It's not really a group as much as a bunch of activities to help out."

- Steven Elias

"The change among young people is that socialism is not a dirty word, and that young people are finding that they like generally what it means," Leddy said. "I'm very enthused by that, I haven't felt this positive about young people's politics in decades."

The red scare and the cold war of the 1950s made socialists enemies of the country for an entire generation of Americans, and as millennials become dissatisfied with the American two-party system, young voters are looking for alternatives.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the Democratic Socialists of America have grown from 9,000 members to just under 45,000 since President Donald Trump took office. Opinions on socialism are also improving according the L.A. Times, which showed almost 70 percent of younger voters approve of socialism.

Members have already gone out and participated in events hosted by its Los Angeles chapter, feeding the homeless and handing out pamphlets about their rights, according to Steven Elias, a YDSA member.

"Its not really a group as much as a bunch of activities to help out," says Elias.

The club currently meets every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the campus library.

Last straw for California

California makes it mandatory for restaurants to only supply straws upon requests.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

Malibu recently passed an ordinance banning the distribution of plastic straws in hopes to motivate California and the nation to follow their lead for environmental reform.

Assembly Bill 1884 follows a "straws-upon-request" policy requiring restaurants to distribute drinks without plastic straws unless otherwise requested. Around 500 million straws are used each day, accumulating to 175 billion each year. These single-use, non-biodegradable utensils cause severe harm to the ocean, wildlife and the environment. Under the law, restaurants that continued to distribute plastic straws would receive two warnings and would then be subject to per-day fines of $25 apiece, paying a maximum of $300 in fines per year if they continued to purposefully object the law.

According to California State Assembly Member Ian Calderon via Twitter, "I'd like to clarify that #AB1884 (Straws Upon Request) is (a) NOT a ban; (b) should it become law, it will NOT make it a crime for servers to provide plastic straws. My intention is simply to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of plastic straws on our environment."

Plastic straws are made from fossil fuels and other various plastics, so these small utensils are almost never recycled. According to the Plastic Pollution Coalition, "Every bit of plastic that has ever been created still exists, including the small amount that has been incinerated and has become toxic particulate matter."

"It is essential for the future of humanity that we reduce the amount of plastic waste we are leaving on this planet," said Jordan Lieberman, Malibu resident of 20 years. "Adopting this ordinance is such a minor thing to do in the grand scheme of life and the environment will benefit largely from it."

Besides the straws-upon-request policy, Malibu is also making it a requirement that restaurants only provide environmentally friendly, non-plastic cutlery, straws, and stirrers. Some alternatives to plastic straws include metal, stock glass, stainless steel and bamboo straws. Restaurants have until June 1st this year to transition to more sustainable products.

Spruzzo's in Point Dume has already implemented this policy into their restaurant. "Our straws are made out of paper," said Spruzzo's waiter Marcus, "and all take out utensils are made from corn."

Getting California on board with Assembly Bill 1884 the ways in which Malibu has may not be as easy. Although there is substantial evidence to prove their environmental harm, many people do not want to be rid of plastic straws. They have been universally used daily for decades to drink soda, coffee, smoothies, and more.

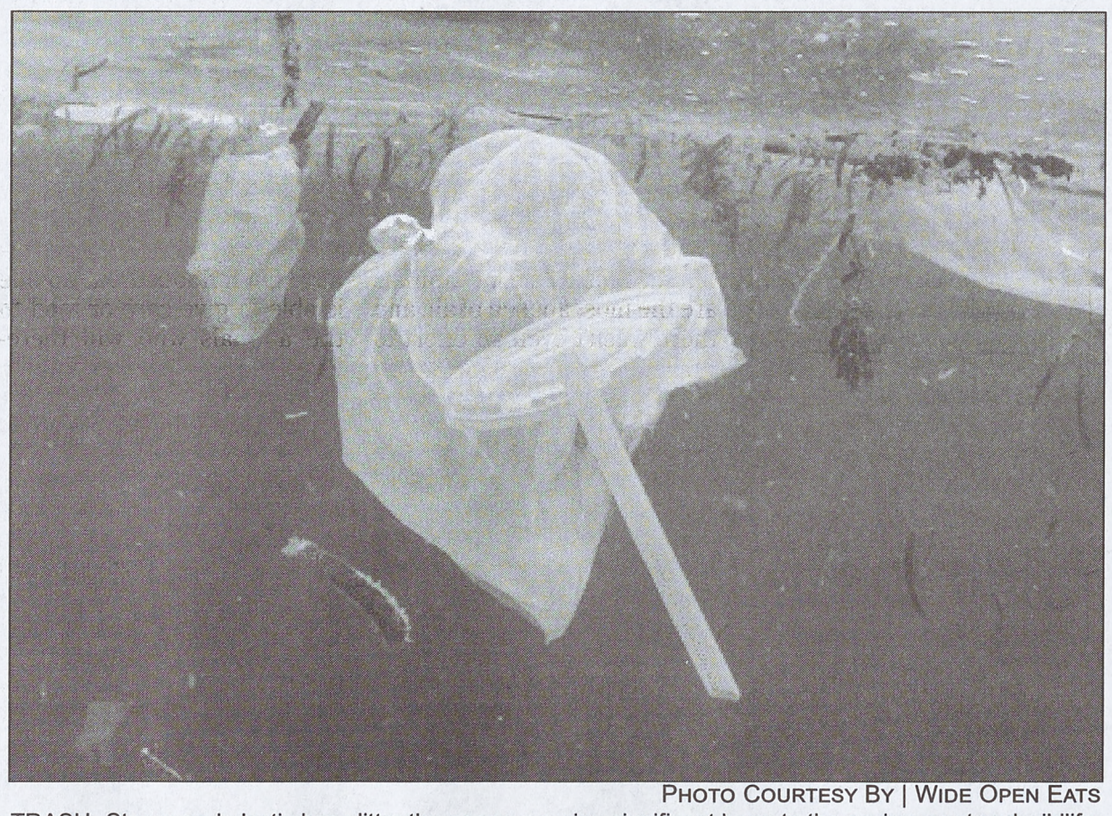


PHOTO COURTESY BY | WIDE OPEN EATS
TRASH- Straws and plastic bags litter the ocean, causing significant harm to the environment and wildlife.

"I don't think people are going to want to drink their milkshakes out of a paper straw," said Valley College student Emily Jackson. The 20-year-old California native said, "I believe the intentions behind this bill are good; I just don't think that it's practical."

'Books'

money by purchasing an older, less expensive version of the book.

The bill encourages faculty to consider teaching selected textbooks that will result in the lowest costs to students. Cunningham partnered with a class of about 20 Cal Poly Bill Project students. The students wrote the bill in class and asked Cunningham to work with them on legislation to lower the cost of books. Several students traveled to Sacramento to lobby the bill.

"The experience is a fine example of how even a small group can make a difference and it absolutely represents Cal Poly's learn by doing ethos," said Cunningham. "College students throughout the state have these Cal Poly students to thank for this important measure."

Fair to highlight STEM

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Occupations within the STEM field have been growing steadily since 1990, outpacing overall United States job growth. From 9.7 million, it has risen by 79 percent to 17.3 million in 2016. The Valley College STEM Club hopes to bring more people into the field with their own event that spreads awareness about STEM.

The STEM Fair, sponsored by with the ASU and Valley Promise, will be a two-hour event held in Monarch Hall at 1 p.m. today, and will feature a panel of students from Valley and professionals, food and information about other clubs relating to STEM. Eight students and experts that each represent a field in STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – will each give their background on how they took an interest in their field.

Various STEM-related clubs will be in attendance, such as the Mathematical Monarchs, the Astronomy Club, the Physics Club and the Engineering Club, handing out information to guests. A representative from the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars will be there as well to provide information.

STEM workers with a master's degree earn 26 percent more than their non-STEM worker counterparts.

Vice president of the STEM Club and panelist, Antonia Fabian, wants to use the event to spread awareness on subjects most people tend to stay away from and motivate them to take an interest.

"I had no idea I wanted to be a math major. I, myself, hated math for a good portion of my life," Fabian said. "Then I had a really inspiring professor my second semester at LAVC who let me see math through a different perspective."

"Every single person in the panel had someone inspire them or something inspire them to pursue STEM one way or another. We hope to inspire someone along the way," Fabian said.

The other panelists include a biology student, a computer science student in the STEM club, a PhD student from UCLA and a CSUN student studying mechanical engineering who also works for the Air Force.

According to the Pew Research Center, a typical full-time, year-round STEM employee with some college education makes $54,745, while a non-STEM worker with a similar education earns $40,505. In addition, the median earnings for full-time, year-round workers with a STEM college major are $81,011, compared to the $60,828 earnings for other college majors.

'E-cigarettes'

that daily use of electronic cigarettes is associated with nearly a doubling the odds of a heart attack.

"The new study of nearly 70,000 people found that heightened heart attack risk for e-cigarettes is on top of the effects of conventional cigarettes, which by themselves nearly triple the odds of heart attack risk when smoked daily."

Big e-cigarette retailers distribute their products worldwide to commonly visited places such as 7-Eleven and Shell gas stations with the notion that the sellers are only selling to people of legal age. However, placing their products in convenient locations where youth commonly spend a lot of their time is making the e-cigarettes easily obtainable. Also, some companies offer store locators on their websites so consumers can easily find the closest store to them to purchase their e-cigarette products. Juul released a statement regarding this issue and taking a stance against the underage use of their products.

"We already have in place programs to identify and act upon these violations at retail and online marketplaces," the statement read, "and we will have more aggressive plans to announce in the coming days."

We have reached out to Juul for further comment on their response to the FDA's demands and to learn more about their aggressive plans to combat teen usage of their products but have received no comment.

THE ISSUE

E-cigarettes

According to the 2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 11.7 percent of high school students used e-cigarettes, compared to the 1.5 percent reported in 2011.

OPINION

Mac Miller's music reflects troubled life

The Pittsburgh rapper's untimely death has left a catalogue of songs to be heard in remembrance of an artist's shared reality.

CESAR MARTINEZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

On Friday afternoon, Sept. 7, when the news broke that rapper Mac Miller died of a drug overdose in Studio City, many people of his generation were saddened.

The 26-year-old rapper recently released his latest record, "Swimming," to add to his discography, showing his growth from college-rap-kid on "Best Day Ever" to full-blown artist. Unafraid of openly exploring the struggles of depression and substance abuse through his introspective lyrics.

Miller's peers expressed their grief and sent condolences towards the artist and Miller's loved ones, which is a testimony to the impact Miller and his music.

Malcolm James McCormick, known as Mac Miller, was born on Jan. 19, 1992, and grew up with an ear for music, and learned how to play piano at six. Later moving on to other instruments before choosing rap at 14. He eventually found his way, along with fellow Pittsburgh native Wiz Khalifa to the indie label Rostrum Records. Producing mixtapes, Miller gained mainstream success in 2011 with a No. 1 Billboard hit with his debut album, "Blue Slide Park."

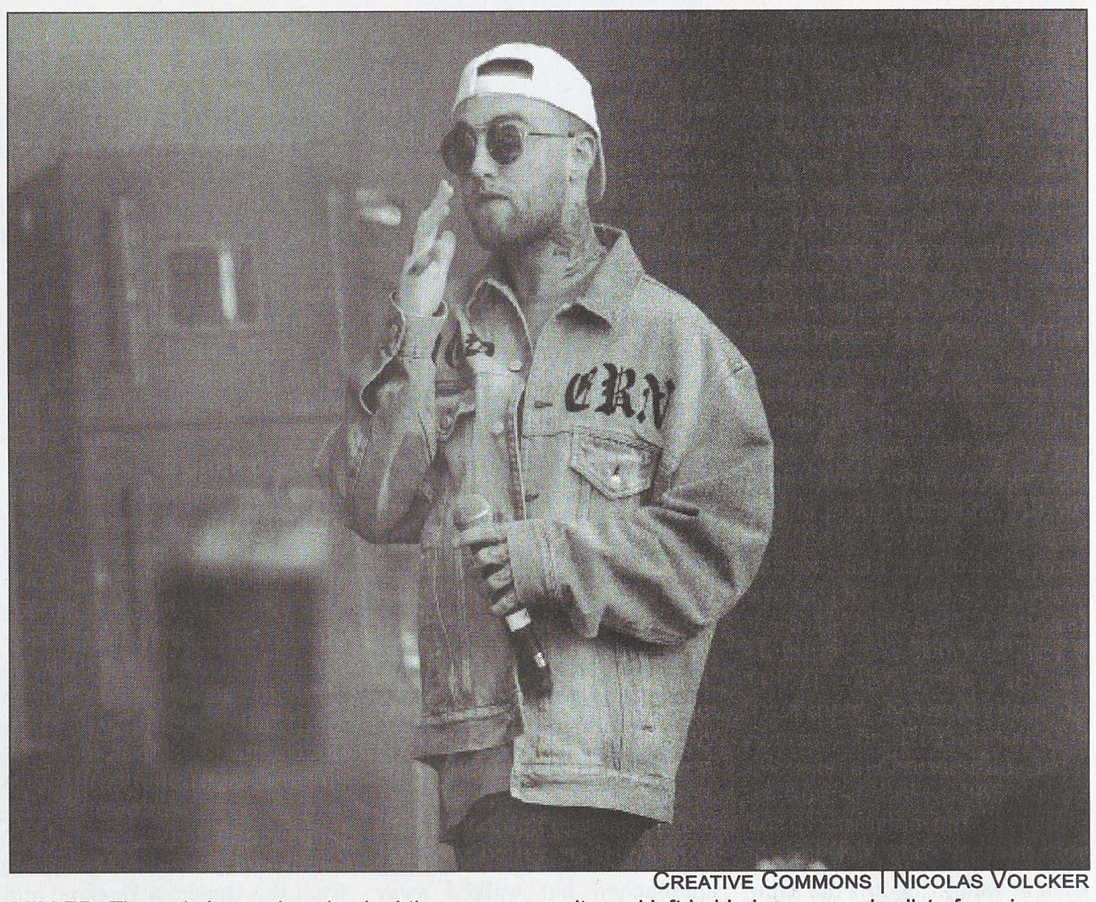
"Wiz has been a big brother to me with this music thing so far," said Miller in an interview from 2010. "Our relationship is beyond music. He really is just my homie, whether I will be making music or not."

Miller's second album, "Watching Movies with the Sound Off," struck a different tone from the juvenile motifs of house parties and debauchery. It experimented with the ideas of reflection through songs like "I am Who I Am (Killin' Time)" and "Objects in the Mirror." The album featured accompaniments by fellow up-and-coming rappers, Earl Sweatshirt, Ab Soul and Action Bronson, and more.

The year 2013 found Miller creating his own record label, REMember Music, where he began to produce under the moniker, Larry Fisherman, for himself and fellow emcees. Within a year, Miller's tenth mixtape, "Faces," captured the state of his struggle with substance abuse and his inevitable death with such in the songs "Funeral," "Rain" featuring Vince Staples and "New Faces v2" with Earl and Da$h.

"If I jump let me fall," said a lyric in Miller's "Colors and Shapes." Although revered as a successful mixtape producer among peers, and critics, Miller reflected that this point in his career coincided as a pivotal point with his addiction, "This could be my last breath/ Ima take my time."

"Swimming" appears to be the denouement of a conflicted person's struggle and conclusion with many magnified troubles of mortality. "Self Care," "Small Worlds" and "Come Back to Earth" stand as influential pieces for anyone struggling with life's tribulations. Mac Miller transformed his music from the simple catchy generic raps to the personal, relatable pressures and joys of life, sharing it with other rappers to be a part of for us to listen to.



CREATIVE COMMONS | NICOLAS VOLCKER

MILLER- The artist's passing shocked the rap community and left behind an expansive list of music.

Livestock lives matter

People evacuate during a natural disaster but what happens to the livestock left behind?

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

Hurricane Florence has steadily been taking over North Carolina and has people quickly evacuating to not get caught in the flood but what about the livestock that cannot make an escape for themselves?

With almost 36 inches of rain flooding, 33 people dead from storm-related accidents and hundreds of thousands of people without power it is no question that Hurricane Florence is a disaster that has effected so many people. Where most people stop thinking about disaster is when it comes to livestock. They seem to be forgotten in the state of panic around them. Animals like chickens and pigs have been left to fend for themselves which is something they cannot do after being held in captivity. It is unfair and inhumane for these animals to be raised solely for consumption to begin with and it is even worse for them to be left in a path of danger.

"Sad but predictable," said Gene Baur of Farm Sancutary on Facebook. "Farm animals are the most abused of all, and there wasn't even an effort to relocate them, which would have been logistically difficult. At the very least, factory farms should not be located in areas prone to flooding, and tax dollars should not be used to reimburse this cruel industry, which ironically and wrongly opened their statement by announcing that they didn't experience loss of life in the wake of the storm."

Colorado State University explains advance warning is availbale during a hurriane so lifestock can be moved inland before the storm's arrival.

A whopping 3.4 million chickens and turkeys have died so far, as well as 5,500 pigs as reported by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Sanderson Farms is one of the biggest poultry producers and has reported 1.7 million of their chickens dead, dozens of broiler houses flooded and at least 30 farms unreachable due to flooding. Farms being unreachable may not mean that the actual farms have been flooded but no one is able to give care or food to the animals who will therefore perish by starvation. Humanesociety.org gives farmers tips on how to shelter livestock by reminding them that they have two options: house livestock or leave them out in pastures. Confinement leaves animals unable to fend for themselves while being left out exposes them to the elements and with over a million chickens reported dead, these tips have not helped.

The answer to fixing this problem would be for society as a whole to be on a plant-based diet. This would alleviate the need for millions of animals to be held in captivity and slaughtered for consumption. This is not reality though. If society cannot change to erase meat from their diets, laws and successful evacuation plans should be drawn up to treat these animals with as much respect as possible. Losing these animals is not loss of revenue, it is loss of life.

"These are expendable lives to the public," wrote Woodstock Farms Sanctuary, a farmed animal rescue and animal rights group, on a Facebook post. "We must change our relationship with nonhuman animals."

Don't point the finger

Mac Miller's fans seek answers to his untimely death but are looking in the wrong direction by placing blame on his ex-girlfreind.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

Mac Miller's sudden overdose caused an uproar on social media with many fans left heartbroken and confused while some placed blame on ex-girlfriend Ariana Grande, but it wasn't her responsibility to fix him.

Miller struggled with drug and alcohol addiction for years and it contributed to his split from long-time girlfriend, Ariana Grande, four months ago. He recently told Rolling Stone that his breakup with Grande was difficult and he struggled significantly with drug abuse at the time. Miller has always been open with the public regarding his substance abuse.

"Drugs are dangerous, dude. But they're awesome. Just dangerous," Miller said during an interview with Noisey in 2013. "Drugs are not like a new thing. Especially with me, I've been doing drugs since I was fifteen."

Following his split from Grande in May, Miller was in a car accident and arrested for a DUI. Many placed blame on Grande for Miller's erratic behavior because she ended their three year relationship and then quickly jumped into an engagement with Pete Davidson after just four weeks of dating.

"I am not a babysitter or a mother and no woman should feel that they need to be. I have cared for him and tried to support his sobriety & prayed for his balance for years (and always will of course)," Grande tweeted in May, "but shaming/blaming women for a man's inability to keep his shit together is a major problem."

This hits on the common theme in drug abuse cases that another person can "fix" an addict. Yes, Grande was a stabilizing force in Miller's life and her presence was a primary reason for Miller's sobriety, but she could not undo the years of damage the rapper had already done to his system with drugs such as Cocaine, Percocet, Oxycodone, and Codeine. However, Miller responsibly tried seeking help to recover.

"I still smoke cigarettes. I'm not completely sober, but I'm way better than I was at that point," Miller said in an interview with Billboard. "I was afraid of what my life had become. But once you just breathe and relax, you come to terms with it. This is my life, I enjoy it, and it's OK that I enjoy it."

Unfortunately, drug recovery is never easy and people suffering from addiction deal with a lifelong, chronic disease. A support system is a huge aspect of a successful recovery, but the self-determination and dedication of the individual is vital for one's rehabilitation.

Miller admitted during a documentary for FADERin 2016 that "he hates being sober" but he'd "rather be the corny white rapper than the drugged out mess who can't even get out of his house. Overdosing is just not cool."

Despite his opposition for overdoing, it was the reason for his untimely passing. The night before his death, Miller was surrounded by friends watching a football game, seemingly happy. His death goes to show that we never really know what another person is going through. All we can do is provide love and support and try to be proactive in a loved one's recovery.

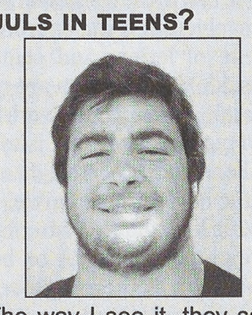
SAMHSA's National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357), (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889 is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE POPULARIZATION OF E-CIGARETTES OR JUULS IN TEENS?

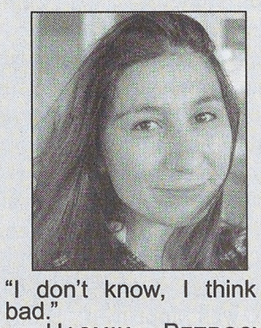
TEXT BY ANDREA GONZALEZ
PHOTOS BY SOLOMON SMITH

"It can cause negative effects in their body, but it's their body to do what ever they want."
- LISANDRA CONTREVIS, CLASSICAL STUDIES

"E-cigarettes are like the same thing as cigarettes, and they both can lead to cancer."
- COURTNEY WILLIAMS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE



"The way I see it, they say it's a healthier way of smoking, but I don't think it is."
- AZAD MARKASIAN, KINESIOLOGY



"I don't know, I think it's bad."
- HASMIK PETROSYAN, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

"I don't think it's good for them since they are still too young to do that. They just wanna look cool."
- KOKO TAKAVORIAN, SOCIOLOGY

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

God the Mother comes to campus

A group on campus trying to promote their message has been questioned about their intentions instead.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

A group known locally by the name of, "God the Mother" has raised the eyebrows of students who have been approached or heard the stories from others but are they a danger to be wary of or an actual group spreading their beliefs?

World Mission Society Church of God, established in South Korea in 1964, is the group most people know as, "God the Mother". They do not refer as this name themselves though, rather it is the name others identify them as because one of their highlights of belief is that God is not only the Father but the Mother as well.

"Heavenly mother is salvation. Even in this world nobody can be given life without a mother right?" explained Casey Hill, a representative of The Elohist Club at Valley. "So it is the same for our soul. In order for us to have life we must come to Heavenly Mother and we must participate in the new covenant truth that Jesus established 2000 years ago."

The church has a club on campus under the name of "Elohist Club" with regular meetings and members. Members of this club have approached students at Valley telling them that God is a woman with bible verses ready to back up their claim. One student said that she felt like they had done their research since the information was so readily available and immediately explained upon the initial approach.

Suspicion and rumors arose when students were invited to attend the bible studies but the meeting spot was not clear and when they continued to get calls asking to meet up. One member of the group offered to meet a student at school then drive her to the study which was, allegedly, at a different location. Students have mentioned that they felt bombarded and wanted to be nice when they were approached but walked away feeling off about the interaction and never pursued the meet up to learn more.

Searching the name "God the Mother" on the Internet will bring up different results, some saying it's human trafficking, most saying not to believe the rumors, that it's just a religion. Sitting down with Casey Hill and Ashley Frazier of the Elohist Club revealed the groups main intentions which are volunteer work and Heavenly Mother.

"Maybe there was a misunderstanding but I think it got completely out of hand." said Hill about the suspicion against his church. "People quickly believe what they hear."

The World Mission Society Church of God has three million members and is practiced in 175 countries with over 7000 locations. Hill practices at the location in Burbank and Frazier, a Sociology major who has been a member the past couple of years, studies in Hollywood when they are not studying with the Elohist club on campus.

The South Korean based church has received awards from the Queen of England and President Barack Obama for their voluntary services around the world. They are big on community support, blood drives, emergency relief, and neighborly love in helping the less fortunate. With volunteering being one of the church's biggest priorities and accomplishments, their number one mission is to share the love of God.

In an investigation with help from Valley's Team Leader Deputy Saldivar and his contacts in human trafficking intel, it has concluded that, "After reviewing SIU holdings and performing open source research, no direct or substantiated threat to Los Angeles college campuses or students by "Mother of God" has been found."

Any student intrigued on the practices of the World Mission Society Church of God can go to watvintro.org, watvaward.org and asez.org for more information. The Elohist club needs a couple more members to be an official club again this year and Hill encourages students to take a moment to listen to the teaches of their group. He understands that people have been afraid of their group in the past but wants students to know that their intentions are pure.

Thus, students are reminded to always be aware of what is happening around them, be cautious of handing out phone numbers, and think twice or have a plan when meeting up with people they do not know.

PHOTO COURTESY OF | CASEY HILL
ELOHIST- Club members happily introduce the club at Valley College's Club Rush.

PHOTO COURTESY OF | WARNER BROS.
STARS- Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper sing togther on stage in the movie, A Star is Born.

Hollywood stars shine on the big screen

Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper completely transform themselves to become the opposite versions of who they really are for the remake of a classic movie.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

A Star is Born is not only a captivating story, but the way Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper play characters outside of their own selves is something that one would call amazing.

Ally, played by Gaga, is a hometown girl with a voice that deserves more recognition while Jackson Maine is a hardcore Rock n' Roller with a drinking and substance abuse problem. Watching the trailer or reading the title is a pretty clear indicator of what is to follow, but as the story unfolds, it becomes more than just a girl who finds fame. The film dives deep into issues with drinking, dependency, and tragedy.

Gaga becomes a girl with a beautiful voice but, allegedly, not as beautiful face who has come to accept that she will never amount to more than an act at a drag bar. In real life, this is far from the truth. Gaga worked hard to become the larger-than-life icon she is today with her extravagant outfits and electric performances. Cooper, on the other had, is normally a soft spoken, charmingly handsome man who learned how sing, bringing his voice down an entire octave for the role as Jackson Maine.

When Jackson finds Ally singing in a bar, it is love at first sight. Their story continues as he sees everything she has to offer and puts her on stage to showcase her to the world. As Ally grows as a performer, Jackson never appears jealous, but laments the loss of her deeper message as she becomes the pop star her agency wants her to become.

Watching these characters desperately love each other through the highs and lows that are Ally's rapid-growing success and Jackson's drinking habits, it is easy to empathize with the pain the characters feel as substance abuse and drinking are such major issues in today's culture. It is hard not to think about how many people are their own versions of Ally, doing their best to be the cure and fix someone with love or their own Jackson, knowing there's an issue at play but not being able to fight it. Although Jackson's drinking rapidly gets worse throughout the film, the movie goes on as does his career. It is clear that Ally is not to blame, but the disease itself that cannot be fought.

VALLEY'S STARS

★★★★★

Rated R
Must Watch Movie
Playing in theatres
starting Oct. 5 2018

TAP program eases the burden of transferring

Students with a strong desire to learn and move on to a four-year college should check out TAP for assistance.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Academically motivated first-time college students at Valley College looking to transfer to a four-year university are welcome to try and take part in the Transfer Alliance/Honors Program.

TAP/Honors is designed to help students who have not yet earned a college degree transfer to another college. Students enrolled in TAP are able to receive several benefits, including priority registration for TAP sections, special scholarships for UCLA, a designated counseling team for specialized advisement and eligibility for priority consideration for admission to UCLA, Occidental College and UC Irvine. According to the TAP homepage on the Valley website, more than 85 percent of TAP applicants have been accepted to UCLA compared to the less than 30 percent on non-TAP applicants over the past five years.

"The exciting thing about TAP/Honors is that it really allows the students to have a very guided path into their four-year institution," said TAP Director Yih-Mei Hu. "It alleviates the stress of transferring."

For TAP students, there are three ways to take honors courses. The first is when TAP offers up to five-course sections that rotate on a two-year cycle, enabling students to plan ahead in order to meet their requirements. The second are mixed sections, which are classes that contain both regular and honor students. The third is to form a contract with Director Hu. It can either be two contracts for a 15-unit program or three contracts for an 18-unit program. The purpose being that if a course was approved, though not yet confirmed to become an honors course, the student could still earn that honors credit.

Director Hu elaborated on how TAP chooses which classes are selected for their program. "Some of those courses would be involved in a major from the college of letters and science," she said. "A lot of them are really general ... that would work for a lot of majors as prerequisites."

For students straight from high school to be eligible, they must at least have a cumulative, unweighted 3.25 GPA or better and a copy of their high school transcripts.Returning college students, are required to have completed at least 15 transferable units with a 3.25 GPA or better, English 101 eligibility, Math 125 eligibility or completion and a copy of all previous college transcripts.

Once in the program, a student must maintain at least a 3.25 UC transferable GPA, complete Library Science 101, participate in TAP/Honors for at least one academic year or a fall and spring semester prior to transferring and several other obligations. While students must earn a total of 15 to 18 honors units, there is no requirement for the number of honors classes a student needs to take per semester.

However, any student who has earned a Bachelor's degree or higher is not eligible for TAP. While they have the ability to take approved TAP courses, they will not earn any benefits.

To apply for TAP, students must see TAP Team Counselor Michael Gold on a drop-in appointment in the Counseling Department located in the Student Services Annex to go over their qualifications and obtain an application or visit the TAP homepage to download an application. He can be contacted through his email goldmc@lavc.edu. For a full list of TAP benefits, qualification requirements and approved classes, visit the TAP homepage.

Valley Life

Deputy Saldivar is all about community

The new Team Leader, Deputy Saldivar, makes a relationship with the students the main priority.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

Helping the community has been the theme of Deputy Nick Saldivar's career and is a theme he brings to his new position as Team Leader at the Valley Sheriff's station.

Deputy Saldivar started as the new Team Leader, in charge of all the security officers at Valley, in April and has goals of growing the sheriff's office with more personnel to better patrol and engage with students and the community as a whole.

"With the right mindset you could affect a younger demographic," said Deputy Saldivar when talking about what he was excited about for Valley. "I think having a chance to bring my training, experience and knowledge that I've had from working the streets into an environment such as this college, I'll be able to give some guidance and help students and the community while being at this college."

Working in law enforcement for 16 years is where Deputy Saldivar gets all of that experience and knowledge he is proud to share. Working lockup in the jail and court systems is where he started, Century Station covering Watts, Willowbrook and Compton is where he found himself next, and before coming to Valley he searched for parolees at large from the AB109 who skipped out on checking in while working for the Parole Compliance Unit. Valley's change of pace has Deputy Saldivar focusing on building a better relationship with the school and it's students to change any negative outlook that may be had about law enforcement.

"I'm a big proponent in interaction with kids in the community." expressed Deputy Saldivar. "I think that's the best way to fix any bad taste people might have."

Walking around campus, Deputy Saldivar is committed to treating everyone with respect and is sure to be seen smiling and interacting with students. He wants people to know that officers in law enforcement aren't robots, but human beings too, so do not hesitate to stop and say hello as he'd be more than happy to chat.

When asked about his favorite moments on the job, Deputy Saldivar doesn't immediately go to tell a wild story about chasing a criminal but instead expresses first his love for participating in toy drives, helping the less fortunate during the holiday season and working with partners. His want to help and be involved with the community is admirable and clearly what drives Deputy Saldivar to do his best at creating an environment where everyone feels safe and protected by himself and his officers.

"There's nothing better than getting a bad guy off the street or working up a case where you couldn't find the guy who'd been hiding out from you then finally catching him, that's what we do," said Deputy Saldivar. "But at the same time, there has to be something bigger than that."

Valley Star | Solomon Smith

SALDIVAR- The new Deputy on campus wants to help the Valley College community in his position.

Homeless Connect Day

Free vaccines, clothing and food offered to homeless by non-profit organizations.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Homeless and those with significant financial troubles gathered in Valley College last Thursday to seek free aid and clothing through Homeless Connect Day.

On Sept. 20 in Monarch Hall, Valley hosted Homeless Connect Day, a monthly event that brings together non-profit organizations and agencies that provide free assistance to the homeless. At least 34 organizations were present, ranging from Los Angeles Family Housing, Healthy People in Healthy Communities, the Legal Aid Foundation of LA, Operation Blankets of Love and Sisters on the Streets.

Attendees were provided with information about housing, legal aid, sexual and mental health, employment and voting. In addition, attendees were able to receive free vaccines for Hepatitis A, pet food, lunches, backpacks, clothing, sexual health screenings and purses.

"If this happened all the time, if this was happening every day all over the city, then half of the problems would be over," said Valley student David Elam, who has been looking for a new apartment. "Landlords would be here helping the homeless people, homeless would be meeting landlords, doctors would be meeting patients. Everything would work."

Empowered Gifts, a non-profit organization that serves economically disadvantaged women and girls, provides mentoring and aid in finding jobs, though their base objective is giving out purses. "The purses that I give them is to uplift them and give them back dignity," Chief Executive Officer Candy Williams said. "For us, women and purses are inseparable twins. It's where we keep all of our personal everything. It's our life."

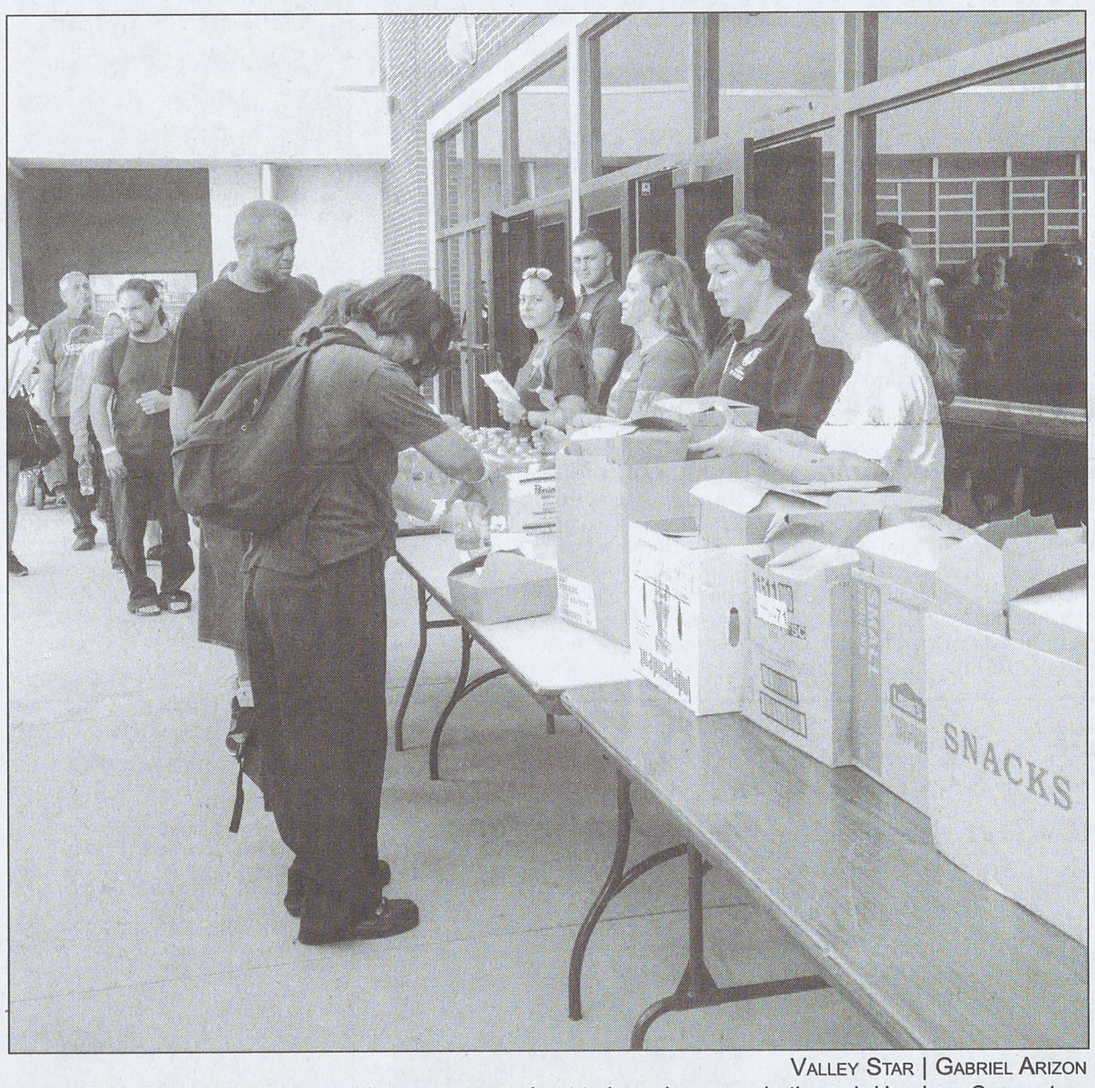
Homeless Connect Day is a collaboration between the LA County, the City of LA, the state of California and non-profit organizations. It takes place at different locations each month, enabling those free resources to reach as many people as possible.

"It's important to provide assistance where they are, someplace they can get to make it accessible," said Josephine Hernandez, business development coordinator at Health Advocates.

"People need to know that these services are available, so they know they aren't alone," said volunteer Jeff Yeager.

According to figures released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority in 2018, there are 52,765 homeless in the Los Angeles County, with 7,738 residing in the San Fernando Valley. According to a 2017 report by the Los Angeles Community College District, more than 18 percent of student respondents are homeless and more than 60 percent experience food insecurity.

The next Homeless Connect Day will take place in Eagle Rock on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Northeast Regional Coordinator Monica Alcaraz at malcaraz@exodusrecovery.com.



Valley Star | Gabriel Arizon

SERVICES- Food, water, and clothing were passed out to homeless people through Homless Connect Day.

Artist invites students to mark on his art

Valley College welcomed Artist Karl Burkeimer during artist talk followed by a semester-long exhibit where students can interact with his art.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Portland-based artist and educator Karl Burkheimer introduced his new project "Tautline", an interactive installation, this week at Valley College's Art Gallery.

Burkheimer presented his new project at an artist talk held in the art department on Sept. 14. The semester-long exhibit will showcase a collaborative art movement with the students in the art department: a reaction art piece created through Burkheimer's love of architecture, design and the ordinary.

"Today these pieces are mine but as the months go on, they will be less and less mine," said Burkheimer on the opening of "Tautline".

The first phase of the project starts with Burkheimer building the drywall billboards, then inviting students to mark the walls. This causes a reaction from Burkheimer who "buffs" over the marks, an artistic term for covering graffiti or street art. Most buffing is described as "eyesores" and is a technique used to cover unwanted art. In this case, Burkheimer uses buffing to create an interactive and unique art piece.

Students from the 2D art class at Valley will be invited to mark on the billboards hung by the artist along with a couple of high school students, they will focus on marking with wheat paste which is used in street art and on billboards. The installation will be different every day, that is the beauty in the react art.

Through past art pieces, this motto shines through. Much like "Tautline", the art pieces start to create a life for themselves. With students being about to interact and become a part of the process is an essential feature. Every aspect of the art is brought to life, an effort by the audience and the artist.

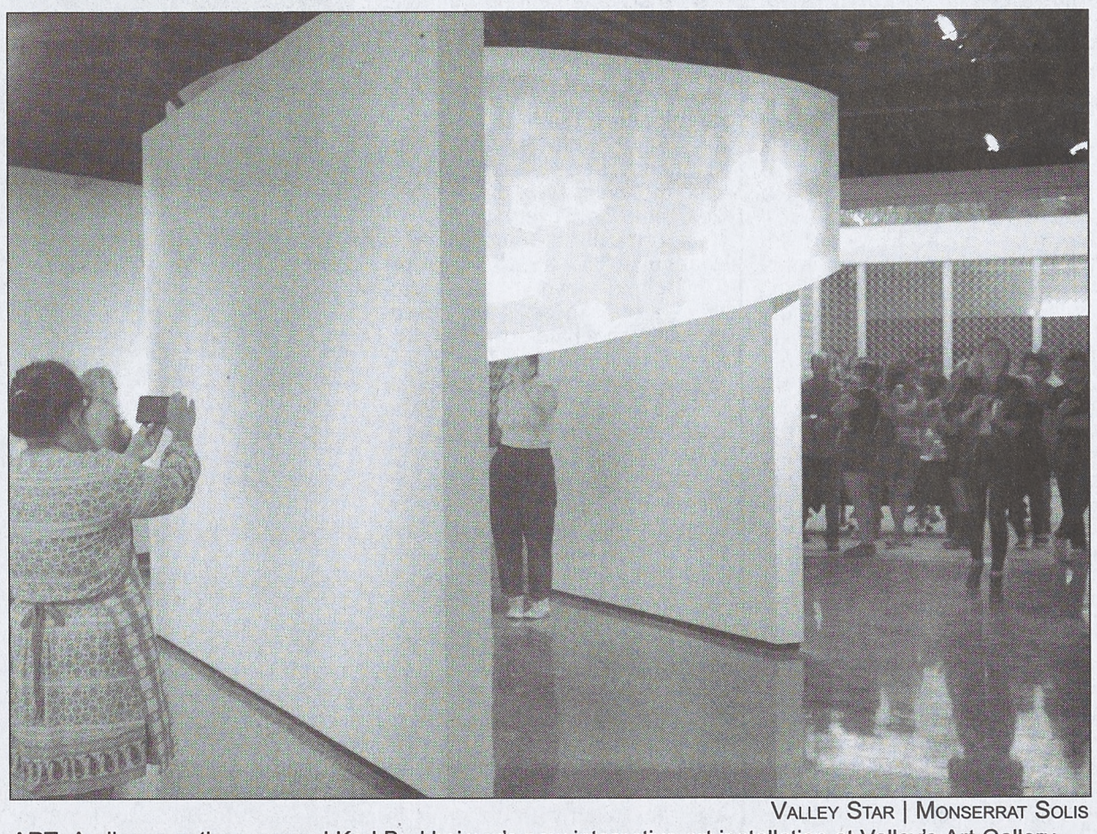
"It's not about aesthetics, it's about the experience," expressed Burkheimer.

Being a multidimensional artist, Burkheimer sees the beauty in ordinary things. Having a background in architecture and traveling the world, Burkheimer realizes that art and beauty are everywhere, especially in the most unexpected places.

"Everyday moments tucked away in the corner," said Burkheimer when describing what influences his art and "the idea of doing the best you can with what you have."

The exhibition will run from Sept. 19 to Dec. 6. The gallery, located in the Art Building, is open on Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parking can be found on Lot D; guest parking permit is available from nearby lot kiosks for $2 cash.



Valley Star | Monserrat Solis

ART- Audience gathers around Karl Burkheimer's new interactive art installation at Valley's Art Gallery.

SPORTS

Umpire union forming becomes more likely by the day

Tennis umpires heavily consider forming a union to fight back against the lack of public defense from their lead organizations.

DEVIN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Tennis umpires have begun considering launching a union following the backlash received by fellow umpire Carlos Ramos due to his rulings on Serena Williams during the U.S Open.

The thought of this union from other umpires originated from the lack of defense for Ramos from the International Tennis Federation. The federation took nearly two days to come out with a statement that defended Ramos. They stated that all of Ramos' decisions " were in accordance with the relevant rules." The slow response and lukewarm support caused the umpires to feel betrayed and helpless when it comes to preserving their neutral image in the eyes of the head supporting companies. The fear of not being able to make controversial calls because of the potential risk of being accused of something outside of the sport itself has these umpires looking for quick alternatives.

In the span of the two days it took a major sponsoring source to defend Ramos, other companies such as the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and United States Tennis Association (USTA) openly sided with Williams and her claims of sexism and untruthfulness. Due to the lack of support for Ramos and his ruling, along with the ongoing flow of stories that stood by Williams, Ramos was publicly ripped publicly.

An anonymous umpire has since told The Guardian "there is a lot of unhappiness in the umpiring community because no one is standing up for officials."

After this, multiple other anonymous professional umpires have also since said Ramos was just doing his job and doing it correctly but still has to face the accusations from the public which have potential to ruin his reputation as well as his career. Ramos later told Portugal's Tribuna Expresso that this whole incident and backlash from it made for "an unhappy situation."

The main purpose in the mind of the umpires is that this mutual union between a large amount of these umpires could cause a change within the community in their perspective when it comes to the respect they receive and deserve. The idea is that they would not stand for any serious or sensitive public criticism from major sources just because of a controversial ruling. If major organizations that speak for these professional umpires do not do anything soon to show the support and respect for them, they will out of their own free will.

UMPIRE STRIKE

"The umpiring fraternity is thoroughly disturbed at being abandoned by the WTA," Richard Ings, a retired elite Gold Badge umpire told ESPN.com

Valley's Men's Water Polo drops its first game of the season to powerhouse Golden West

The Monarchs took on Golden West in a grudge match of last weeks' showdown at Golden West and fell just one goal short of tying the game.

VALLEY STAR I VICENTE VITELA

TAKING SHOTS-The men's water polo teams is off to a great start this seaosn and is trading shots with some of the state's best teams.

VICENTE VITELA
SPORTS EDITOR

Late drama in the Valley College Vs Golden West Rustlers game left the Monarchs with a 12-11 loss after a missed opportunity gave the team their first loss of the 2018 season.

At the sound of the whistle, the fans expected a water polo match but ended up witnessing a chess match. The Rustlers would draw first blood within a minute into the match, and by the end of the first period, Golden West happily took a 3-1 lead heading into the second period. The lone goal for the Monarchs didn't come until the four-minute mark by Davo Araklyan. Golden west clearly came into the match with a plan and executed it early on, and forced the Monarchs to adjust their strategy.

"Our man-up situation wasn't good, and it cost us the game," said Head Coach Jim McMillan about the team's defense.

The second period didn't have as much scoring as the first; however it had a lot more fouls, and rough action as both teams jockeyed for an advantage. The second half ended with Golden West up 5-2, and the Monarchs failed to breakthrough the Rustlers defense, and tensions were high heading into the half.

"We fought hard and didn't quit, and we kept fighting," McMillian said.

As the second half began, the Monarchs scored three unanswered goals in less than two minutes. Araklyan scored two of those goals, boosting his total to four. The Rustlers, however, answered back with two goals of their own, ending the period with an 8-6 lead. The end of the third finally saw the Monarchs execute their game plan but would it be too little too late for them to finish off the comeback.

As soon as the fourth period ended Golden West would jump on their first possession, and score a quick goal making it necessary for the Monarchs to score three goals in order to tie the game. The Monarchs would once again score three unanswered goals, tying the game with just four minutes to go. After both teams bullied in a few goals we would have ourselves an 11-11 tie with just one-minute remaining.

"We have to work on our shooting and our man up defense," Said McMillan on what his strategy will be for his upcoming games.

Golden west would receive the ball with what might be their final possession of the game, and they did not let it go to waste as Manuel Augusto would score the go-ahead goal with 47 seconds remaining. Valley would have an opportunity to tie it but a strong defense from the Rustlers would force a steal, and would eventually lead to the Monarchs downfall and a 12-11 loss in round 2 of the Valley Vs Golden West series.

Women's Soccer off to Fast Start

Head Coach Venger leads his team of grinders into the second half of the season without their star player.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF I THE HARBOR TMES

FAST START- AFTER LOSING A KEY PLAYER TO INJURY, VALLEY WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM KEEPS KICKING.

The Valley College women's soccer team has kicked off its season with a 7-1-1 start but will have to find a way to keep the goals coming after losing a key player.

Head Coach Greg Venger started his sixth season at Valley and was looking for a great start after disappointing 2016 and 2017 seasons. This year he brought on a new assistant coach Melissa Fernandez and kept his longtime assistant Jose Leon. Since losing their star player due to a torn ACL, the women's soccer team has not held back– it has only strengthened them.

"This team is filled with grinders," Venger said. "They give me everything they got every game and every practice. I look forward to seeing how they continue to respond this season."

Behind every successful team are solid assistant coaches and Venger has two: "My assistant coaches are a key to our success so far they help keep the team balanced and help run the practices very smoothly," Venger said.

The first games went as planned as the Monarchs won their first six games of the season, outscoring their opponents 16-2. Venger said another factor in the team's success is their possession time and the team's offense and defensive balance.

After the fifth game of the season, Valley took a huge hit to its roster as they lost their leading scorer Nataly Vargas, a freshman forward out of Verdugo Hills High School to a torn ACL. She leads the team with six goals in their first six games.

"If we needed a goal she would score for us with 20 minutes left in the game and play defense the rest of the game and not allow anyone to score," Venger said. "That's how good she is."

Valley will look to the whole team to replace the production of Vargas and keep the winning season.

The Monarchs will be starting a WesternState South conference play in a few weeks. They will go through a stretch of seven consecutive games against conference opponents. The winner of the conference will be headed to the playoffs and earn a shot at winning the state championship.

"We treat every game like it's the same we come in with the same intensity and hit the spots from the game before," Venger said.

Some of the games upcoming for Valley include contests against Bakersfield and Alan Hancock. Even though these three teams have a combined 7-12 record on the year, Venger knows the girls must stay focused and give everything they got in these games before the conference.

"In sports, anything can happen," he said. "That's why we love it we never know the outcome and I expect the team to give 100 percent and be exhausted after the game."

The Valley Star

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